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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Induction Procedure

1. Conscripts were called in for military service at the age of 20 in April and November of each year. There was no definite time established for the length of military service; however, conscripts were discharged after two years of service. In some cases they were kept in the service involuntarily for additional months. Deferment from military service was granted only on very rare occasions; i.e., one had to prove that he was the sole provider for the family. There were no deferments for students.

they were examined by a military doctor. The examination consisted of checking eyes, ears, weight, height and an X-ray; the examination lasted about 1 1/2 hours. After the examination they met a board consisting of five officers and one civilian.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Flight Examining Center (letecke vysetrovani stanice) at Prague-Dejvice. At the time there were about 60 men reporting, between the ages of 18 and 20; about 30% of them were volunteers. They went through a very thorough medical examination which lasted an entire day.

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The intelligence test lasted for two days and was considered very hard. It consisted of college mathematics, geometry, physics, chemistry, history, geography, and general intelligence questions. about nine men out of 60 passed the test;

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it was not mandatory to be a member of the Communist Party; however, all examinees had to be politically reliable.

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Personnel

2.

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The 22nd Airfield Battalion consisted of about 160 officers and enlisted men. Approximately 70% of them were Czech nationals, 25% Slovaks, and 5% Hungarian. There was no friction among them and all received the same treatment. Approximately 20% of them were Communist Party members. They received preferential treatment with regard to promotions and leaves. Of 160 men about 35% were farmers; the rest were students, factory workers and skilled tradesmen. There were approximately 12 Air Force women stationed at Mlada. They were all volunteers and their ages ranged from 18 to 26. There were four officers among them who were attached to the Regiment Headquarters. The rest were NCO's working in communications. They did not mix with the troops.

Training at Mlada Airfield

3.

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At Mlada Airfield the troops had five hours tactical training every week. It consisted of platoon tactics in attack and defense. Every morning from 0800 to 0845 hours they had chemical training, consisting of marching and double-timing in gas masks. Once a week from 0900 to 1200 hours, they had political training, consisting of political discussions and lectures. The troops did not take much interest in those lectures; the majority slept.

Promotions

4.

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A 2nd lieutenant, was promoted to captain within one year; this was considered an exceptional case. The enlisted men, after three months of basic training, were entitled to be promoted to PFC. However, only 20% made PFC; the rest did not meet the necessary requirements. The battalion commander had the authority to promote an EM to PFC. From PFC and up, the promotions had to be approved by the division commander. The time-in-grade required for corporal was nine months; to sergeant it was 1 1/2 years. About four EM were promoted to SFC in two years of service. Communist Party members had preference in promotions.

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Discipline

5. In the 22nd Battalion at Mlada, the discipline was strict, but just. The conscript NCO's messed and slept together with the rest of the troops. After duty hours they mixed with the troops and were friendly. The regular Air Force NCO's messed and slept separately. They were military and did not mix with the troops. [redacted] for failing to salute an NCO or officer, a man would be confined for five days to his barracks. During 1954, about five men were put in detention barracks for from 10 to 30 days. Their offense was refusing to obey an order given by an NCO. One man who falsified a trip ticket was sentenced by a court martial to 1 1/2 years' hard labor. According to the Czechoslovak Military Justice (kazensky rad), only officers could punish a man. A platoon commander had the authority to sentence a man up to 15 days detention, a company commander up to 20 days, and battalion commander up to 30 days. Only a military court could give out greater punishments. A military court at Mlada consisted of six members, three officers from the Czechoslovak Military Court in Milevice (N 48-51, E 16-46) and three officers detailed from the base. The defendant was not authorized to have a defense council.

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Pay

6. [redacted] pilots received 2,000 crowns monthly. Enlisted men were paid once at the end of each month. The pay of the conscripts was as follows: Private, 68 crowns; PFC, 72 crowns; Corporal, 86 crowns; Sergeant, 94 crowns; SFC, 120 crowns; M/Sgt., 150 crowns. If married, they received additional pay from 200 crowns to 300 crowns, depending on the size of the family. In addition, they received pay for their AFAC. [redacted]

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[redacted] highly qualified men received up to 300 crowns. The pay for regular Air Force NCO's was as follows: Sergeant, 200 crowns; SFC, 280 crowns; M/Sgt., 350 crowns. If living off-post, they received 200 crowns for food. Quarters for married men were not provided.

Food

7. [redacted] the Air Force was very well fed. They ate in a mess hall, 20 men to a table. The food was brought to the table by two orderlies. Breakfast: unlimited black bread, butter, eight decagrams ham, black coffee. Occasionally they had rolls and eggs. Lunch: black bread, soup, 10 dkg. meat, and dessert. Supper: same as lunch.

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Mail

8. In October, November and December 1953, all the mail was censored. The letters received by troops were opened. However, they did not bear the stamp "censored" nor was anything crossed out of the letters. In 1954, the letters were closed and [redacted] did not believe they were censored. The fee for postage stamps was the same as for civilians. The letters were given to the Battalion CQ who took them to the base post office twice daily. The return address was written on the back of the envelope. [redacted]

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Leave

During the three months of basic training airmen did not receive any leave. After one month they could go to town in groups, on Saturdays until 2400 hours and Sundays until 2400 hours. After

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completion of basic training, they could go out on pass after duty, until 2400 hours. An airman requesting leave had to submit an application in writing. There was no set rule as to how many days' leave an airman was entitled to receive. Leave was a privilege and it was up to the airman's commander to grant or refuse leave. The company commander had the authority to grant up to three days leave, and the battalion commander up to 15 days.

Medical Care

10. There were six doctors and one dentist at the dispensary at Mlada Airbase. The medical and dental care was very good. Airmen's family members were also entitled to free medical care. Hospital cases were sent to Milovice Army Hospital.

Entertainment

11. There was one movie theater at Mlada Airbase with one performance per day. Admittance to the movies was free of charge. The pictures were mostly Czech and Russian. Occasionally, a theater group from Prague performed in the theater. There was one television set on the base, located in the library. The canteen on the base sold beer, lemonade and candy. The prices were identical with outside stores. Saturday and Sunday soccer and volleyball games were held.

Mustering Out

12.

300 men, age 22, were discharged at the same time. They were asked by their commanders to sign up for an additional two years, and were promised a bonus of 400 crowns, two-month leave, and promotion. All of the 300 men declined to sign up for an additional two years. They received a Temporary Military Certificate at Mlada, containing bearer's personal data, date of discharge, and date and place of reporting to their respective Military District Headquarters.

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